GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Contents for Week of February 10, 1930. Vol. VIII. No. 29.

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A CHINESE ROPE BRIDGE OFFERS ALL THE THRILLS OF A ROLLER COASTER

(See Bulletin No. 2)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Arctic Colony Prospers on Tragic Wrangel Island

DAWN will soon come for the courageous colonists of Wrangel Island who have been passing their third season in the darkness of Arctic winter.

More than fifty Russian and Siberian colonists have succeeded on Wrangel Island in the Polar Sea where others failed. The Soviet Government was much worried about the colonists' fate for many months.

From 1927, when a Soviet aviator visited the island and reported a scanty food supply, to the summer of 1929, no word was received from Wrangel residents. They had no radio. Ships could not get through the ice pack to them.

But finally a relief ship did get to Wrangel. It found the members of the colony well and happy. Bears, wild geese and walruses shot by the islanders contributed to their food supply. They are now planning to grow potatoes during the short summer of concentrated daylight. The Soviet Government has encouraged the establishment of a colony on Wrangel Island to fortify her claims to it.

Death Has Visited Earlier Settlers on Island

Previous to this experiment Wrangel has been the home of tragedy. Death has sought out those who dared to live on its shores.

The island is 70 miles long by 28 miles at its widest, and lies 100 miles off the north Siberian coast. It is 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Captain Thomas Long, an American, who first discovered in 1867 the true extent of the island, named it for Baron Wrangel, a Russian explorer. Forty years earlier the Baron had heard reports of the island from natives, but he had failed to find it.

Mankind left Wrangel Island to itself until January, 1914, when the *Karluk* was crushed into kindling wood by the ice. Captain Robert A. Bartlett led the main body of survivors 100 miles over the pack ice to Wrangel. With one companion he then crossed on the ice to Siberia, bringing news of the disaster. A rescue ship reached Wrangel in September. Of 25 on board the *Karluk*, 14 returned safely to civilization.

Eskimo Woman Outlives Four Men on Wrangel

In 1921 four men, with an Eskimo seamstress, elected to stay on Wrangel Island. They found it to be the home of many foxes and polar bears which they shot for meat. Seals and walruses frequented the shores and, in summer, large numbers of birds, ducks, geese, terns and snipe nested there. Driftwood lined the beaches, so the sojourners did not lack for fuel. But the supply ship, dispatched to Wrangel in the second year, failed to reach the island. Three of the men started for Siberia and were never heard of again. One died of scurvy; Ada Blackjack, the Eskimo, was the only human being alive on Wrangel when the rescue ship finally arrived.

The *Teddy Bear*, that brought back Ada Blackjack, left Charles Wells and 13 Eskimos. They lived on Wrangel until a Russian ship took them off in 1924 and confiscated their fur catch. Wells and two Eskimos died in Siberia.

Wrangel remained untenanted until 1926 when Russia established the large and well-equipped colony which is now prospering. Of the six Russians, left there

© Photograph by Merl La Voy

AN OLD STYLE TYPE OF RUMANIAN THATCHED COTTAGE

This style of peasant home was common when the land was held in large estates. Most peasants were tenants. Since the land has been distributed the people have built better and larger homes (See Bulletin No. 3).

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Plant Explorer Risks Life to Bring New Flowers to the United States

RARE Chinese plants, which may some day decorate American gardens, could tell thrilling tales if they could speak.

Dr. Joseph F. Rock, explorer for the National Geographic Society, writes from Likiang, Yünnan Province, China, that he has escaped from bandits with his botanical and photographic treasures intact.

With the assistance of 22 natives Dr. Rock ferried his precious collection across the Yangtze on goatskin rafts.

"It took us two days to make the crossing," he writes. "The natives worked like Trojans from early morning until after sunset, stark naked, each with only an inflated goatskin tied to his stomach. They would plunge into the rushing river and push us across, as we each sat upon two inflated goatskins. Three men would pull and two would push, and yet we were carried downstream for more than a mile."

Park Superintendent Reports New Plants Vigorous

Beautiful rhododendrons that blossomed for the first time last spring in Golden Gate Park are plants grown from seeds collected by Dr. Rock on earlier expeditions.

Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society, received a letter from John McLaren, superintendent of the San Francisco parks, telling about the success in growing plants introduced from China:

"Several years ago we received through your kindness a collection of rhododendron seeds, most of them having been gathered in Western China by Dr. Joseph F. Rock, under National Geographic Society auspices.

"We were successful in germinating the majority of these seeds and many of them have been coming into blossom, for the first time in this country. These constitute both a striking color display and a very interesting botanical exhibit, and will mark a new departure in the cult of the genus rhododendron locally.

Enters Areas Never Before Explored

"Many forms are yet too small to have borne flowers, and it may be years before we are able to estimate fully the debt we owe to your Society and to Dr. Rock."

The rest of the story—the chapter which embodies the adventures and dangers of plant hunting in remote world areas—is hinted by Dr. Rock in an earlier letter received at the National Geographic Society headquarters.

"During the summer while exploring we collected thousands of specimens of plants and earmarked such as would prove of value if introduced into the United States," Dr. Rock wrote. "When we returned to our base in the fall and requested the tribal King to exert his good influence with the outlaws of Mt. Kouka he was obliged to decline for various reasons. He did, however, grant us permission to go as far as the foot of one of the peaks.

Burned Bridge to Block His Progress

"Half way to the region a runner overtook us with a letter from the King and one from a bandit addressed to the King. It happened that after our second tour of Mt. Kouka in August a severe hailstorm destroyed the barley fields of a tribe that lived to the southeast. This calamity they attributed to the dis-

with the Siberians, three are said to be men and three women. One of the latter is a nurse, another a teacher. They are the first white women who have tried to live on Wrangel.

The island itself has been a football of international politics. Various individuals who have gone there have claimed Wrangel in the name of Canada, the United States or Russia. It lies closest to Russian territory and the establishment of the Russian colony is an endeavor on the part of the Soviet to make good her claim.

Bulletin No. 1, February 10, 1930.

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ALL ARCTIC EXPLORERS REPORT THE WEALTH OF FLOWERS IN THE SUMMER TIME

Residents of Wrangel Island, it is reported, will experiment with growing potatoes in the Far North. Long hours of summer sunshine in northern latitudes have been responsible for pushing the wheat belt into upper Saskatchewan, Canada.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

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National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

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Rumania Turns the Corner

AFTER ten years of hard times and discouragement Rumania seems to be entering a new and better era built on foundations laid down by a revolution without bloodshed.

Ten years have seen the distribution of 8,402,240 acres of land to 1,475,751 peasants.

Before the war Rumania was a country of the landed rich and the landless poor. To-day the maximum holding permitted to one individual is 1,235 acres. King and nobles gave up their estates to fulfill the demands of the land reform.

What Russia, Mexico, and other countries have done in the matter of land distribution at the cost of many lives and much money, Rumania accomplished without a shot.

Rumania Has Decided to Make a Good Job of Farming

But reform was not without cost. Uncertainties, lack of organization to meet new conditions, and lack of transportation facilities, increased the cost of borrowing money to 12 and 14 per cent. Credit is still tight in a country where all the money in circulation had to pass through the national treasury as taxes *three* times per year.

Greater Rumania is nearly three times as large as pre-war Rumania. The new nation took in Transylvania, the Banat, Bucovina and Bessarabia, and has yet to digest them. Old Rumania was the size of England. Greater Rumania is larger than England with Wales, Scotland and Ireland added. Like the units of Great Britain each section is different; Bessarabia is an extension of the Russian black earth prairie; Bucovina, a forested region; Transylvania, an upland, notable for industries as well as agriculture; the Banat, a lowland.

After the war Rumania saw visions of an industrial future. The country has ample resources: oil, water power, wood, ore and a good labor supply. Ten years have dimmed the vision, but have not wiped it out. Eight out of ten Rumanians still are farmers, so the nation has decided to make a good job of farming before turning to industry. Co-operatives have been organized. Groups of peasants find they can afford to buy labor-saving American farm machinery. A grain-grading law was passed in 1928. Silk culture, starting from nothing, has increased to an enterprise enlisting 4,000 workers and $18,000,000 capital.

Turn from Wheat to American Corn

Since the World War Rumanians have turned definitely from wheat to American corn. Greater acreage is planted in corn than in wheat. Corn mush displaces bread as a national food. Bessarabia looks like Kansas. But in 1928 a second drought hit the country. The corn crop was a failure and Rumania, a country which has exported cereals for years, had to import corn. The government acted to forestall famine in some regions.

The similarity of parts of Rumania to Kansas extends to sunflowers, for which both regions are famous. In Rumania sunflowers are a standard crop; 394,000 acres were planted in sunflowers last year. Oil pressed from sunflower seeds serves as a constituent of butter substitutes.

pleasure of the residing deities in the snow peaks, caused by our collecting plants and birds and our climbing about those sacred peaks. They said they had planned to rob us on our second visit but now they would kill us. So the King exhorted me not to go near the mountains."

Apparently it was not the menace of the superstitious tribesmen that kept Dr. Rock from visiting the region again, for he adds in matter-of-fact fashion:

"We then found the bridge leading across the river into Kouka territory burned, so this prevented us from going even to the base of the mountain."

The most recent explorations of Dr. Rock are reported in the February, 1930, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Seeking the Mountains of Mystery." His other adventures in plant hunting are told in "Through the Great River Trenches of Asia," August, 1926; "Life Among the Lamas of Choni," November, 1928; "Banishing the Devil of Disease Among the Nashi," November, 1924; "Experiences of a Lone Geographer," September, 1925; "Hunting the Chaulmoogra Tree," March, 1922; "The Land of the Yellow Lama," April, 1925.

Bulletin No. 2, February 10, 1930.

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A NASHI PORTER ABOUT TO SLIDE DOWN A ROPE TOBOGGAN BRIDGE

In crossing, the traveler sits in a sling, with his hands placed over the wooden slider, or grasping the leather thongs to which it is attached. If his hands touched the rope, the friction would burn and lacerate them. Both slider and rope are greased with yak butter to facilitate the crossing (see front page illustration).

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The Rise of Chinese Newspapers

THE revival of the *Williamsburg Gazette* of historic Williamsburg, Virginia, reestablishes one of the oldest colonial newspapers of the United States.

The *Maryland Gazette* of Annapolis, Maryland, which was started in 1745, is the oldest continuously published daily paper in the country.

Yet the oldest of American newspapers are mere babes in arms compared with the *Peking Gazette,* which was published for more than 500 years.

Oldest and Probably the World's Worst Newspaper

"From a journalistic standpoint," says Paul Hutchinson in a communication to the National Geographic Society, "the Peking Gazette is probably the worst, since it is nothing but a collection of presidential mandates, decrees of appointments, and lists of honors. Until the fourth decade of the last century, China knew no other paper. The court bulletin, for such it was, held such a monopoly of the field as the late Viscount Northcliffe never attained in England.

"Then translations into Chinese from the Hongkong foreign papers, made at the suggestion of Wu Ting-fang, former Chinese Minister to the United States, marked the beginnings of what is modern Chinese journalism.

"The first regular newspaper to be established was probably the *Shun Pao,* which is still published in Shanghai and is the most successful paper in China. This journal was established in 1872, and was rapidly followed by the *Hu Pao,* the *Sin Wan Pao,* and other dailies, many of them under foreign control.

Foreign Journals Pioneer the Way for China Press

"The influence of newspapers published by foreigners must be acknowledged in studying the reasons which led to the founding of these Chinese papers. In 1827 Mr. James Matheson began to issue the *Canton Register,* and from this there has grown a body of periodicals that includes daily newspapers, weekly and monthly reviews, commercial organs, humorous and illustrated papers, and magazines dealing with scholarly questions concerning the life of the country.

"Many of these papers have been edited by missionaries, who must be regarded as forerunners of the new journalistic day in China. At present the most influential are those published in English, but there are other papers printed in French, Russian, Japanese, Italian and Portuguese.

"Chinese journalism began its career in the port cities, particularly those under foreign control. Consideration of the simple but effective method by which the Manchu dynasty censored the efforts of any who might not agree with it will suggest why this was the case. The Chinese editor might attack the imperialism which placed the 'grasping nations of the West' in control of his country's richest ports, but he was generally careful to launch his attacks from beneath the protection of those same 'usurpers.'

Must Walk Three Miles to Set up One Page

"For a long time this tended to give Chinese journalism a furtive character—an influence not yet wholly eradicated. The papers which sprang up in the ports were, like the secret societies which flourished there, weapons to attack the ruling powers.

Four foundation stones support life in Rumania: cereals, oil, lumber and livestock. Production of oil and lumber has progressed vigorously, not enough, however, to offset losses in cereals and livestock.

Buckets Five Stories High in the Oil Fields

Companies of many nations including the United States are working Rumanian oil wells near Ploesti, northwest of Bucharest. They have increased production to 4,265,000 metric tons of oil, which made the 1928 yield a record. Rumania stands sixth, supplying 2.4 per cent of the world production.

Rumanian oil is found mixed with sand as fine as flour. A powerful flow of sandy oil will cut steel casings as if they were cheese. One new gusher bored a hole through a 3-ton iron cap with the ease of a high-grade drill. Because the sand ruins pumping machinery the oil is lifted to the surface in long buckets. Probably they are the world's longest buckets; some of them stand five stories high and bring up a number of barrels each time. An American company seems to have clinched a $3,000,000 contract for a new pipe-line to carry the oil from Ploesti to the Danube, across the Cerna-Voda bridge, and across the Dobrudja region to the seaport of Constanza, a distance of 500 miles.

Despite the depression and lack of roads, sales of automobiles, most of them American, continue to increase. Many of them go to the oil fields where they permit the engineers in charge of outlying wells to get to Ploesti occasionally for the enjoyment of companionship in the international club.

Walnuts and Furs Chief Exports to the United States

Automobiles are the major imports from the United States, which imports include accessories, films, oil field equipment, radios, phonographs and records, engines, insecticides and electric refrigerators, to the amount of $12,000,000. Walnuts and fur skins are Rumania's chief exports to the United States.

Dr. Maniu, the new premier of Rumania, has served under two governments. He was a member of the Hungarian diet before the war. In the last part of 1928 he accepted the premiership of Rumania.

Among the improvements to which Rumania looks forward is the reclamation of vast areas of swamp land. Seven thousand square miles of marsh drained will afford ample land for the remaining landless peasants, numbering about 600,000.

The nation has as its national church, the Orthodox Eastern Church. Other churches have numerous members, however, among them the Unitarians.

Note: See also "The Danube, Highway of Races" (54 illustrations), *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1929; "The New Map of Europe," February, 1921; "Rumania, the Pivotal State," October, 1915; "The Races of Europe" (see Rumanians), December, 1918; and "Transylvania and Its Seven Castles" (35 illustrations), March, 1926.

Bulletin No. 3, February 10, 1930.

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Nairobi: Favorite Base for African Big Game Hunts

THE Prince of Wales has resumed in Africa the hunting trip that was interrupted last year by the severe illness of his father, King George V.

Sooner or later in the course of his present journey the Prince will probably come to Nairobi. This Kenya Colony town is well known to African big game hunters as a favorite starting point for hunting expeditions.

Special Automobiles Now Follow Some Trails

Nairobi has been made a miniature railroad center of East Africa by a new railroad which comes into it. Nairobi and Mombasa, on the coast, are the two principal cities on the main Kenya-Uganda Railway, to which the new line becomes a feeder.

The largest shops in Nairobi cater to the sportsman, and natives in the vicinity earn a livelihood as "safari boys," that is, porters. Specially equipped Fords now follow the jungle trails and one may purchase a different type of gun to hunt each variety of animal.

Town Is the Capital of Kenya Colony

In its early days Nairobi was known as "the tin town of East Africa," because many of its houses and shops were constructed of tin and corrugated iron. Handsome stone structures have generally replaced these earlier buildings. Wide, paved streets have supplanted dirt roads. Automobiles mingle with bicycles and with jinrickshas drawn by natives. Nairobi is the capital of Kenya Colony and its attractive government buildings and large hotels give the city a cosmopolitan touch. The government of the city is vested in an elected council. Women have a municipal vote.

The climate of Nairobi resembles a perpetual Indian summer. Therefore plant life flourishes. Native English flora transplanted to Nairobi grow hardily. Gardens of hollyhocks and pinks and masses of roses make the suburbs resemble an English countryside.

East Indians Develop Oriental Bazaar

Most of the whites in Nairobi are English. The native population consists mainly of the Kikuyu, a mild-mannered, agreeable people, and the Masai, once the most famous warrior tribe of East Africa. The bulk of the trade is in the hands of the East Indians, of whom there are several thousands in the city.

The most fascinating, and also the most primitive, part of the town, is the East Indian Bazaar. There fakirs perform rope tricks and snake charmers and other "vaudeville" attractions operate. Tiny shops sell articles of carved ivory and wood or gayly colored saris, the head scarf-garment of the Hindu women. Indian silversmiths and coppersmiths ply their trade. The latter are in special demand by the native Africans. They fashion the copper rings with which the native women ornament their brief costumes. The sellers of beads also do a handsome business with these customers.

Bulletin No. 5, February 10, 1930.

"Since the Manchus had no conception of the uses of publicity, the revolutionists wielded that weapon alone. And the constant reiteration that the government was corrupt, which was only too true, emphasized by personal anecdotes, which were frequently untrue, finally achieved the desired result.

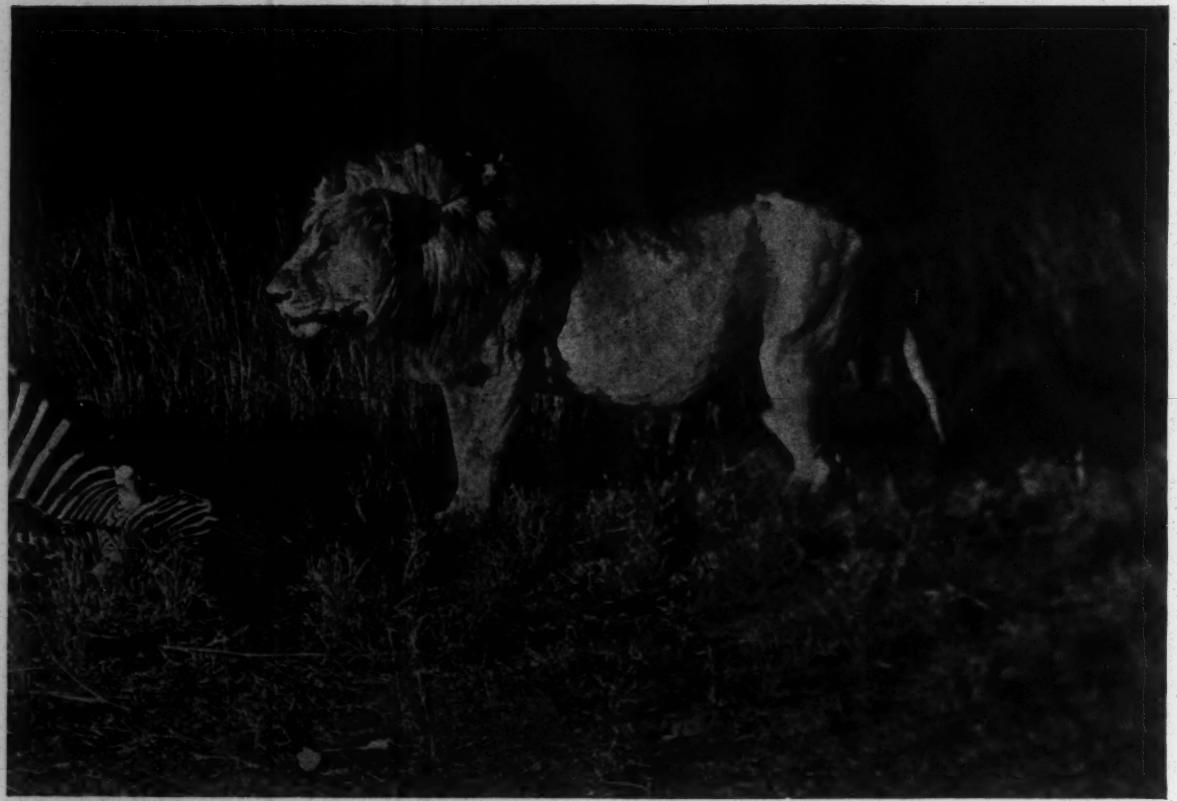
"Some sort of machine composition is all that China needs to make its newspaper-producing processes equal to those of Western lands. The new phonetic script can now be set by machine, but so far no genius has come forward with a practical method of doing away with hand labor in setting up the thousands of ideographs of the old-style writing. It has been estimated that a Chinese typesetter has to walk three miles in order to set up one page of a newspaper in these characters."

Bulletin No. 4, February 10, 1930.

© Photograph from Paul Hutchinson

THE BUSINESS OFFICE OF A LARGE SHANGHAI DAILY

Few Western papers can boast a finer home than that which houses this Oriental journal. Advertising, which for so long played only a very minor part in the development of the Chinese press, has now become an important source of revenue, and one prominent newspaper devotes more than three-fourths of its space to advertisements.



© Photograph by A. Radclyffe Dugmore

FLASHLIGHT PICTURE OF THE KING OF BEASTS

At the moment the photograph was made the lion was twelve yards from the photographer and his companion, who were on the ground beneath some thorn bush.